

Glenda Wiles

From: Cate Campbell [campbellca2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2008 5:39 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Bitterroot Travel Plan

Greetings,

I'm writing on behalf of wild, quiet country. We are so lucky to still have some of that rare geography. I am familiar with many of the wild areas of the areas being discussed by the Bitterroot National Forest stewards since I am an avid backpacker. I have seen some terrible damage to natural areas by unregulated motorized use and have had to listen to the far away whine of engines after hiking miles into wild country. We don't have enough quiet, wild country left. I'm all for allowing motorized use in a few designated areas but too many ATV users pioneer trails. I have witnessed the aftermath of motorized intrusions into wetlands that left a muddy mess where there had been greenery and food for wildlife. Multiple passes of machines erode stream banks and smash out rivulets and seeps.

I'm especially concerned about damage to wilderness study areas such as the Blue Joint and Sapphire. These are locations that need special protection in the event of an eventual qualification as wilderness. Roadless areas, as well, such as the Selway-Bitterroot and Sleeping Child are a rare form of geography. Motorized traffic has no place in such country. Wildlife needs somewhere to go. Do we have to access every corner of the west?!

Please plan with an eye to quiet areas and real wild country for those of us who appreciate it and have limited impact on the ground we traverse.

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